

RATTLE OF THE

HEAVYWEIGHTS

Jeffries and Johnson Meet

**for World's Championship
To-day at Reno.**

WHITE MAN THE FAVORITE

What Betting There Is Favors

Him to Whip Galveston Negro for the Title.

Special Trains Bringing Crowds of Sporting Men Into Nevada Town, and Every Moment Accumulation Becomes Scarcer—Governor of State Reiterates That Battle Is to Be on the Level—He'd Stop It, He Says, if There Was a Chance

It Was Crooked—Enormous Sums of Money Involved in Struggle of the Pugilists, Which Has a Limit of 48 Rounds It Is Not Expected to Reach Victory Means Great Fortune to Either Man—“Supremacy of the White Race” Brought In, Although Perhaps Not So Keen an Issue With Fighters.

RENO, July 3.—James J. Jeffries, a former boilermaker and at present a temporarily

retired farmer, will fight to-morrow Jack Arthur Johnson, the negro holder of the heavyweight championship of the world, for the title that is his and the winner's share of a purse of \$101,000.

By agreement the two pugilists will pound each other with five ounce gloves on their hands until one or the other falls and is counted out, if neither is so mastered within forty-five rounds the referee, Tex Rickard, will award the decision to whichever one he believes has earned the

This event is called "the fight of the century." That means, and followers of pugilism firmly believe it, that there will not be in this century such another match between heavyweights. Experts who have studied both men and followers of sports who know their records declare they are at knife edge of perfection physically, and that the battle they will fight to-morrow will probably be the most notable event of its kind since

The First Gentleman of Europe first favored the London prizefighter a hundred years ago.

Jeffries, who was a retired heavyweight champion, finding none that could beat him, is 35 years old. Johnson, who became actual champion of the heavyweight class by defeating Tommy Burns in Australia on Christmas Day, 1908, is 32 years old. Jeffries has trained for tomorrow's event for sixteen months, having to overcome all the physical

disability entailed by his long retirement. Johnson has trained seriously only about three months. He was an athlete in training when articles for the fight were signed.

Both men say they are ready for tomorrow's contest. Both of them stopped the routine of hard work in their camps near Reno three days ago. To-day Johnson did nothing but limber his fighting muscles with light exercise at the weights. Jeffries went out on the

The Carson City turnpike in the cool of the evening and did several short, sharp sprints. That was the end. To-morrow they will come into Reno about noon and be ready to fight. The arena wherein the contest will be held and which will seat 16,000 people, if there are that many wanting seats, was finished late to-night.

PLEDGES OF SQUAREDNESS.

The last word as to the genuineness of to-morrow's battle was spoken to-day when Promoter Tex Rickard and Gov. Dickerson of Nevada both renewed their former pledges that the fight was to be

on the quarantine. For the thousands at Reno these assurances were hardly necessary, because with every westing mile separating the Eastern cities from Reno the sports have left more and more behind them the suspicions that are harbored there.

Nobody in Reno has breathed a word about there being a frameup since the fighters moved their camps here two weeks ago, nor have any of the experts who have come long distances and have watched both fighters rounding off their training voiced even a whisper of doubt.

Here is what the Governor of Nevada said over the long distance phone from Carson to-day.

"The laws of the State of Nevada permit of boxing contests such as the Jeffries-Johnson affair. I have absolutely no power to interfere with this one, but if I thought for a moment that the contest was to be a so-called frameup I would have it called off without further notice. However, I firmly believe that it will be open and aboveboard, and incidentally the greatest battle in the history of the

"I hope to be there to witness it and enjoy it. I wish Promoters Rickard and Gleason and the fighters all the luck in the world. I am not arguing in favor of fights now, but I believe that so long as the battle has come to Nevada it is the duty of each one of the citizens of the State to do what he can to encourage it. May the best man win."

Tex Rickard's vaileictory he worded thus: "I want to assure my friends that there is no possible chance of my side-stepping the issue on the Fourth. It has

been said that I asked for the appoint-
